

# Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Grant Awards – 2009



On the left is the distinctive entry to the Duffy Brothers Building, Williams, Arizona. In 1952, the date of this picture, it contained a Safeway store. Photo courtesy Colors of the West.



This neon sign will be restored as part of a project to refurbish the exterior of the Sunset Motel in Villa Ridge, Missouri. Photo courtesy Jim Thole.



The Cities Service Station No. 8 is located just west of the Eleventh St. (Cyrus Avery) Bridge in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Its restoration will contribute to the ongoing revitalization of the Route 66 corridor in Tulsa. Photo courtesy Mike Kertok.

## Arizona

**Project:** Colors of the West, Williams, Arizona  
**Recipient:** Private Owner  
**Amount:** \$6,737 NPS, \$6,737 match

Through its tall arch door, tourists saunter into Colors of the West looking for a souvenir. Inside, racks of leather belts, gleaming copper jewelry, and sombreros hanging from the ceiling compete for their hard-earned dollars. For over 50 years, this one-story brick building in downtown Williams, Arizona, has sold a range of tourist goods, from handmade Indian pottery to mass-produced Polar Bear Socks. Prominent Williams developer C.F. Boyle constructed the building in 1912, as Arizona became a state and the town experienced a building boom. After housing several grocery stores—starting with the Duffy Brothers and ending with Safeway—in 1954 it turned into the Indian House, a curio selling American Indian crafts and tourists goods, then became Colors of the West in 1991. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the nearly 100-year-old building is in sound condition but in need of a major update to its electrical system and wiring. Using the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program cost-share grant, the owners will upgrade the electrical system to code and eliminate unused wiring, circuits and exposed conduits. Without all the wire and fuss, customers may better appreciate the original tin ceiling that gives this storied business its patina and charm.

## Missouri

**Project:** Sunset Motel, Villa Ridge, Missouri  
**Recipient:** Private Owner  
**Amount:** \$30,000 NPS, \$31,000 match

The first thing you see is the sun—a multi-rayed orb sinking into inky blue water. The stunning porcelain neon sign advertising the Sunset Motel, now apartments in the tiny town of Villa Ridge in eastern Missouri, will be restored as part of a Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program cost-share grant. Built in 1946 by the Lovelace family, the 12-unit, buff-brick motel is shaped like a V; every room faces lawn instead of parking. The Sunset served travelers on Route 66, and later the interstate, until the 1990s. Fresh from their success restoring the Donut Drive-in sign in St. Louis, the Missouri Route 66 Association worked with the motel owner to apply for a cost-share grant. With the grant, the team that restored the St. Louis sign will refurbish the Sunset Motel sign, installing new neon tubing and bringing back the luster of its setting sun. The owner, using grant monies, will reroof the motel and refurbish dormers, cornice, fascia and soffits. Fiery orange neon will again outline its gables. Look for the sun not to set on this historic motel.

## Oklahoma

**Project:** Cities Service Station No.8, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
**Recipient:** Private Owner  
**Amount:** \$30,000 NPS, \$41,967 match

Situated at the bottom of an expressway onramp, the Cities Service Station No. 8 in southwest Tulsa sits shuttered and surrounded by acres of concrete. Looking like an oblong box, the steel-frame faced and porcelain panel structure awaits new use. Built ca. 1940 and remodeled ca. 1950, the two-bay service station catered to motorists from the neighborhood and those taking Route 66 over the Eleventh Street Bridge. When traffic diverted to a nearby interstate, it turned into a used car business—mostly recently, Ron David's Used Autos. Its new owners, who run a nearby business, see something in this old gas station. Inspired by Tulsa's "Vision 2025," a 2003 voter-approved county tax program to fund capital improvements, they applied for a Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program cost-share grant. With the grant they, with guidance of a historical architect, will do a total refurbishment—replacing the roof, rebuilding windows and doors, updating outdated water and electric lines, installing new HVAC equipment—getting the steel-and-glass box ready for new use.